

CLAIMS:

1. A method of moving flows in a communication network, comprising at least a first node, a second node, a third node and a content source node, the method comprising:

obtaining at least one home address for said first node;

informing an address of said first node to at least one of said third node and said content source node;

providing at least a first flow from said content source node to said first node;

detecting a need to move at least said first flow from said first node to said second node;

informing an address of said second node and said at least one home address to at least one of said third node and said content source node; and

transmitting at least said first flow to said second node by at least one of said third node and said content source node.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said first and second nodes are interface units associated with a single physical electronic device.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said first and second nodes are separate electronic devices.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein said first node is served by a first access network and said second node is served by a second access network.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein one of said first access network and said second access network is one of a wireless local area network, a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) network and a Universal Mobile Telecommunications (UMTS) network.

6. The method according to claim 1, the method further comprising:
transferring a context associated with at least said first flow from said first node to said second node.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said transferring of the context is performed using a point-to-point radio link.

8. The method according to claim 6, wherein said transferring of the context is performed using a multi-node network.

9. The method according to claim 6, wherein a part of said context is transferred via a point-to-point link and another part of said context is transferred via a multi-node network.

10. The method according to claim 1, the method further comprising:
filtering of packets addressed to said at least one home address in at least one of said third node and said content source node based on flow labels indicated in packets.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one of said third node and said content source node continues transmitting at least said first flow to said first node while transmitting at least said first flow to said second node.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said need to move at least said first flow is detected based on a proximity of said first node and said second node.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said proximity of said first and second node is detected using a point-to-point radio link.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein said need to move at least said first flow is detected by said first node.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein said need to move at least said first flow is detected by said second node.

16. The method according to claim 14, wherein said first node asks permission from said second node to move at least said first flow to said second node.

17. The method according to claim 15, wherein said second node asks permission from said first node to get at least said first flow from said first node.

18. The method according to claim 1, wherein said informing of the address of said second node and said at least one home address to said third node is performed by said first node.

19. The method according to claim 1, wherein said informing of the address of said second node and said at least one home address to said third node is performed by the second node.

20. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:
deriving a second key from a first key shared by said first node and said third node; and

authenticating the informing of addresses from said second node to said third node using said second key.

21. The method according to claim 1, wherein said communication network is an IP network.

22. A system comprising at least a first node, a second node, a third node and a content source node, the system further comprising:

address management means in said first node for obtaining at least one home address and informing a network address of said first node to at least one of said third node and said content source node;

detecting means in one of said first node and said second node for detecting a need to move at least one flow from said first node to said second node;

address management means in said one of said second node and said first node for informing the network address of said second node and said at least one home address to at least one of said third node and said content source node;

routing means in at least one of said third node and said content source node for routing said at least one flow based on home address to network address mapping information; and

mapping management means in at least one of said third node and said content source node for updating associations between the home addresses and network addresses.

23. The system according to claim 22, wherein said first and second nodes are interface units associated with a single physical electronic device.

24. The system according to claim 22, wherein said first and second nodes are separate electronic devices.

25. The system according to claim 23, wherein said first node is served by a first access network and said second node is served by a second access network.

26. The system according to claim 22, the system further comprising:
transferring means in said first and second nodes for transferring a context associated with at least one flow from said first node to said second node.

27. The system according to claim 26, wherein said transferring means comprise a point-to-point radio link.

28. The system according to claim 26, wherein said transferring means are connected to a multi-node network.

29. The system according to claim 22, the system further comprising:
authorization means in said first and second nodes for authorizing the moving of at least one flow between said first and second nodes.

30. The system according to claim 29, wherein said authorization means comprise a user interface for asking permission for a user.

31. The system according to claim 22, the system further comprising:
filtering means in at least one of said third node and said content source node for filtering packets addressed to node home addresses based on flow labels indicated in packets.

32. The system according to claim 22, wherein said detecting means determine a proximity of said first node to said second node.

33. The system according to claim 32, wherein said proximity of said first and second node is determined using a point-to-point radio link.

34. The system according to claim 22, wherein at least one of said third node and said content source node comprise key derivation means and authentication means for authenticating messages sent from said address management means in said first node and said second node.

35. The system according to claim 22, wherein said communication network is an IP network.

36. An electronic device comprising:

address management means for obtaining at least one home address and informing the network address of said electronic device and said at least one home address to a network node;

streaming means for receiving at least one flow which carries a media stream;
and

detecting means for detecting a need to move at least one flow between said electronic device and a second electronic device.

37. The electronic device according to claim 36, the electronic device further comprising:

transferring means for transferring a context associated with the at least one flow from said electronic device to another electronic device.

38. The electronic device according to claim 37, wherein said transferring means comprise a point-to-point radio link.

39. The electronic device according to claim 36, wherein said detecting means determine a proximity of said electronic device to at least one other electronic device.

40. The electronic device according to claim 39, wherein said proximity is determined using a point-to-point radio link.

41. The electronic device according to claim 36, wherein said electronic device further comprises key derivation means and authentication means for authenticating messages sent from said address management means to said network node.

42. A network node comprising:

home address reservation means for providing a home address for at least one flow associated with an electronic device;

address management means for registering a mapping from said home address and optionally a flow label to a current address of said electronic device; and

routing means for routing the at least one flow to said electronic device based on said registered mapping.

43. The network node according to claim 42, further comprising:

filtering means for filtering packets addressed to node home addresses based on flow labels indicated in the packets.

44. The network node according to claim 42, wherein said network node further comprises key derivation means and authentication means for authenticating messages received by said network node from an electronic device.

45. The network node according to claim 42, wherein said network node is an IP network node.

46. A computer program comprising code adapted to perform the following steps when executed on a data-processing system:

- obtaining at least one home address for a first node from a third node;
- informing an address of said first node to at least one of said third node and a content source node;
- receiving at least a first flow from a content source node to said first node;
- detecting a need to move at least said first flow from said first node to a second node;
- informing an address of said second node and said at least one home address to at least one of said third node and said content source node; and
- receiving at least said first flow in said second node from at least one of said third node and said content source node.

47. The computer program according to claim 46, wherein said first and second nodes are interface units associated with a single physical electronic device.

48. The computer program according to claim 46, wherein said first and second nodes are separate electronic devices.

49. The computer program according to claim 47, wherein said first node is served by a first access network and said second node is served by a second access network.

50. The computer program according to claim 46, wherein said computer program is adapted to perform further the following step:

transferring a context associated with at least said first flow from said first node to said second node.

51. The computer program according to claim 50, wherein said transferring of the context is performed using a point-to-point radio link.

52. The computer program according to claim 46, wherein said need to move at least said first flow is detected based on a proximity of said first node and said second node.

53. The computer program according to claim 52, wherein said proximity of said first and second node is detected using a point-to-point radio link.

54. The computer program according to claim 46, wherein said computer program is adapted to perform further the following steps:

deriving a second key from a first key shared by said first node and at least one of said third node and said content source node; and

authenticating the informing of addresses from said second node to at least one of said third node and said content source node using said second key.

55. The computer program according to claim 46, wherein said communication network is an IP network.

56. The computer program according to claim 46, wherein said computer program is stored on a computer readable medium.

57. The computer program according to claim 56, wherein said computer readable medium is a removable memory card.

58. The computer program according to claim 56, wherein said computer readable medium is a magnetic or optical disk.

59. The computer program according to claim 56, wherein said computer readable medium is a read-only memory circuit.